

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1 and 6-15 remain in the application. Independent claim 1 has been amended to define the invention more clearly. Dependent claims 8, 10, 12 and 13 have been amended to conform to amended claim 1 and to define the invention more clearly. New claims 14 and 15 have been added.

The Examiner objected to the original drawings and required FIG. 2b to be identified as prior art.

A replacement sheet of drawings is attached and properly identifies FIG. 2b as prior art.

The claims were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Examiner identified certain instances in the claims where terms were unclear or lacked proper antecedent basis.

The claims have been reviewed carefully and have been amended to define the invention with sufficient particularity. The amendments address each of the issues raised by the Examiner and several other instances of problematic language that was identified by counsel. It is believed that the amended claims conform to 35 USC 112.

Claims 1 and 6-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,927,369 to Perderson. The Examiner identified elements of Perderson that were considered to correspond to the invention defined by the original claims.

Perderson is believed to be deficient in at least two very significant respects as compared to the amended claims. In particular, Perderson shows lift gate panels

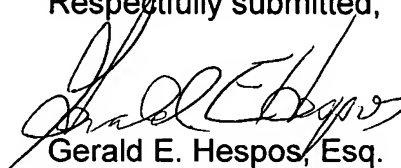
articulated to one another. Each panel of Perderson has a two longitudinal edges that are configured to nest with one another. Each panel of Perderson also has transverse edges that extend between the longitudinal edges. The transverse edges are aligned substantially parallel to the direction of movement depicted in FIG. 1 of Perderson. Each panel also has an inner surface and outer surface. The Perderson lift gate has a plurality of hinges. Each hinge has two panels that attach to the inner surface of the respective panel at a location spaced inwardly from the transverse edges of the respective panels. The disposition of the Perderson hinges at locations spaced inwardly from the transverse edges of the panels requires each of the panels to be configured specially to accommodate a portion of the hinge. As a result, it is very difficult to modify the position, size or shape of the hinges to accommodate special characteristics of a particular lift gate because any such modification to the hinge requires a corresponding redesign of the entire panel with respect to the thickness and the profile on the interfitting longitudinal edges.

In contrast, the building door defined by amended claim 1 is made of several panels. Each of the panels has two longitudinal edges that extend parallel to one another and substantially normal to a direction of movement of the respective panels. Each of the panels also has two opposite transverse edges that extend between the longitudinal edges and that are aligned substantially parallel to the direction of the movement of the respective panels. The panels are guided along at least one guide rail that has at least one curvilinear section. The guiding is carried out in such a way that the panels remain at least approximately parallel to the guide rails. The panels are articulated to one another about axes of pivoting that are parallel to their longitudinal edges. The pivoting is achieved by pivot elements. Anti-trapping profiles with complementary shapes extend along the

longitudinal edges of the panels. The axes of pivoting of the pivot elements are at least approximately co-planar with interior walls of the panels with which they are articulated. Additionally, and significantly, the pivot elements are connected to the transverse edges of the panel. This positioning of the pivot elements avoids the need to conduct a special reconfiguration of the longitudinal edges and their anti-trapping profiles to accommodate hinges or pivot elements at positions between the transverse edges as in Perderson. Perderson clearly does not teach pivot elements that are at least approximately coplanar with interior walls of the panels with which they articulate and that are connected to the transverse edges of the panels. New claim 15 is especially for removed from Perderson. Nothing in Perderson would motivate the skilled artisan to redesign the door gate shown therein to be brought closer to the claimed invention.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.
Atty. Reg. No. 30,066
Customer No. 001218
CASELLA & HESPOS LLP
274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703
New York, NY 10016
Tel. (212) 725-2450
Fax (212) 725-2452

Date: June 7, 2007